

FOREIGN B. JADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
ABIDJAN BUREAU

MAB 3022

5 December 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Abidjan Bureau - November 1983

I. GENERAL

A. The crime rate in Abidjan, particularly street muggings and breaking and entering, has increased considerably over the past several months. At least as worrisome as the higher number of such crimes is the rising threshold of violence that seems to be accompanying the outbreak. Muggers and burglars in Abidjan have generally tended to be "grab and run" criminals, taking what they could conveniently carry and fleeing. Recently, however, many of these hoodlums have been armed with handguns, and have shown considerable willingness to use them. To date no FBIS employees have been victimized during the current crime wave, though break-ins have occurred at the residences of several Embassy officers since mid-summer. President Houphouet-Boigny, in a speech to the National Assembly on 11 November, addressed the security situation at some length. He put most of the blame on foreigners, claiming that Ivory Coast does not have the resources to adequately patrol its borders and keep undesirable elements out. He called for a "mobilization of all the people," and claimed that he would take steps to assure an end to the "banditry" in the country within five months. It seems unlikely that the situation can be brought under control that quickly, as the police are generally inefficient and poorly trained. The Embassy security office has begun surveying official residences, with a view to upgrading physical security to the extent possible. As a result of this effort, extensive grillwork was installed over glass windows and doors at the bureau chief's residence during November. Residences of other bureau employees were deemed to have adequate grillwork at this time.

B. The drought which has afflicted much of Africa over the past year has reduced the power supply available in the Ivory Coast. As a result, rationing of electric power has begun. So far, power has been cut off for several hours after midnight. More stringent rationing measures are expected soon, at which time power probably will be cut off in mid-morning and mid-afternoon as well as during the night. The effect on the bureau has been minimal up to now, though we have lost the 0330-0430 GMT Paris AFP English transmission which is normally covered with the use of a timer. However the power rationing evolves, it probably will continue for some time, as heavy rains are not expected before June, and Ivory Coast relies very heavily on hydroelectric dams for its power supply.

II. OPERATIONS

Monitorial/Editorial

1. On 21 November the bureau filed priority an AFP English report that troops had been sent to Yekepa, Liberia, after five people were reported killed by an unidentified gunman. Shortly thereafter, responding to a BBC alert, an open watch was established on Monrovia Domestic and Radio Elwa. The former carried a statement by Head of State Samuel Doe announcing the arrest of a number of officials of the ruling military government for activities "designed to subvert and overthrow the government of the People's Redemption Council." The following day, the government expelled the Soviet and Ghanaian ambassadors for supporting the plotters, and further reports linked the shootings with the coup plot, with both being tied to Thomas Quiwonkpa, former commanding general of the armed forces whom Doe had previously fired. By the end of the month, however, Quiwonkpa was still at large.

2. An open watch was briefly established on Cameroonian and Nigerian radios on the 24th when AFP reported that Cameroonian soldiers had taken over four villages in Nigeria's Cross Rivers State, the latest border dispute between the two countries. Neither country's media reported the incident promptly although AFP reported from New Delhi that Nigerian Foreign Minister Anyaoku expected to be able to resolve the dispute. Lagos International Service finally reported the incident on the 29th, in a press review citing a newspaper.

3. The bureau also watched Nigerian media on the 28th in response to a BBC request for reportage on an air crash in Enugu, in which up to 69 people were killed. The crash was one of the country's worst air disasters. Items were filed from Lagos Domestic Service and the News Agency of Nigeria, as well as AFP.

4. An AFP report on the 28th that former CAR Emperor Bokassa, in exile in the Ivory Coast, had attempted to return to his country but was stopped from doing so by President Houphouet-Boigny evoked considerable interest from Embassy officials and was discussed at a Country Team meeting. A subsequent AFP report which said that the French Government had notified both governments of the impending plot was handled expeditiously and telephoned to the reporting officer at the Embassy.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. [] arrived in Abidjan 30 November. [] replaces [] as deputy chief. [] left on 4 December for home leave and PCS reassignment to Swaziland Bureau.

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2. Monitor [] received a PSI during the month, to FSN 10/4.

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3. Teletypist [] began leave without pay in connection with maternity leave on 23 November. [] is expected to return to work about 1 February 1984.

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B. Buildings and Grounds

The bureau was struck by lightning on 1 December, during a brief but violent thunderstorm. The lightning knocked out both bureau telephone lines, which still have not been restored, as well as a multicoupler and an automatic tape reader on the telex machine. After striking the bureau, the bolt entered the deputy chief's house which is adjacent to the bureau. It shot through the living room a few feet from [] and hit a light switch. There was no apparent damage to the deputy chief's house, though [] adrenalin jumped to an unprecedented level for some time after the event.

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IV. VISITS

Former EAU Senior Assistant [] returning to London after a two-year assignment in Nairobi, visited the bureau on the 9th. He suggested that the bureau and EAU directly exchange coordination messages by telex when necessary. This procedure has since been implemented. The BBC Monitoring Service in Caversham and FBIS Headquarters will be notified of the results of any such coordination in follow-up messages.

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachment:

Monthly Production Report

cc:

Chief, Swaziland Bureau

Deputy Chief, London Bureau

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ABIDJAN BUREAU PRODUCTION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 83

TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	194,430
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	32,080
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	551

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:

(MINUTES OR ISSUES PER WEEK)	7,437	30,360	115
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III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:

(PUBLISHABLE WORDS PER MONTH)

ANGOLA

LUANDA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

LUANDA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

1,730

LUANDA ANGOP IN

PORTUGUESE

LUANDA ANGOP IN

FRENCH

3,290

BENIN

COTONOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

3,170

COTONOU EHZU IN

FRENCH

CAMEROON

YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

160

YAOUNDE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

250

CAMEROON TRIBUNE IN

FRENCH

CAMEROON TRIBUNE IN

ENGLISH

CONGO

BRAZZAVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

3,720

BRAZZAVILLE BULLETIN QUOTIDIEN

IN FRENCH

BRAZZAVILLE ETUMBA IN

FRENCH

CHAD

(CLANDESTINE) BARDAI CHADIAN

NATIONAL RADIO

12,040

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BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
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FRANCE

PARIS AFP IN ENGLISH	22,360	
PARIS AFP IN FRENCH	17,040	
PARIS DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN ENGLISH	4,360	
PARIS DIPLOMATIC INFORMATION SERVICE IN FRENCH	11,120	

GABON

LIBREVILLE DOMESTIC SERVICE IN FRENCH	210	
LIBREVILLE L'UNION IN FRENCH		
LIBREVILLE AFRICA NO.1 IN FRENCH	1,350	

GHANA

ACCRA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN ENGLISH	18,300	
ACCRA INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN ENGLISH		
ACCRA GHANAIAIN TIMES IN ENGLISH		
ACCRA DAILY GRAPHIC IN ENGLISH		
ACCRA WEEKLY SPECTATOR IN ENGLISH		
ACCRA THE MIRROR IN ENGLISH		

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BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
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GUINEA

CONAKRY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

4,710

CONAKRY HOROYA IN

FRENCH

IVORY COAST

ABIDJAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

6,080

ABIDJAN FRATERNITE MATIN IN

FRENCH

150

LIBERIA

MONROVIA RADIO ELWA IN

ENGLISH

1,750

MONROVIA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

7,630

MONROVIA EXPRESS IN

ENGLISH

MONROVIA LIBERIAN INAUGURAL IN

ENGLISH

MONROVIA NEW LIBERIAN IN

ENGLISH

MONROVIA THE SUND PEOPLE IN

ENGLISH

MALI

BAMAKO DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

3,120

BAMAKO L'ESSOR IN

FRENCH

MAURITANIA

NOUAKCHOTT DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

1,570

NOUAKCHOTT CHARR IN

FRENCH

NIGER

NIAHEY DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

740

NIAHEY LE SAHEL IN

FRENCH

NIAHEY SAHEL HEBDO IN

FRENCH

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLICA- TIONS
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NIGERIA

LAGOS DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

15,460

LAGOS INTERNATIONAL SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

2,110

KADUNA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

NIGERIAN NEWS AGENCY (NAN) IN

ENGLISH

5,920

CALABA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

IBADAN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

SENEGAL

DAKAR DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

6,590

DAKAR LE SOLEIL IN

FRENCH

2,530

DAKAR PANA IN ENGLISH

DAKAR PANA IN FRENCH

2,680

SIERRA LEONE

FREETOWN DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

ENGLISH

780

FREETOWN DAILY MAIL IN

ENGLISH

TOGO

LOME DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

8,610

TOGO NOUVELLE MARCHE IN

FRENCH

UPPER VOLTA

OUAGADOUGOU DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

20,970

OUAGADOUGOU L'OBSERVATEUR IN

FRENCH

ZAIRE

KINSHASA DOMESTIC SERVICE IN

FRENCH

KINSHASA AZAP IN

FRENCH

3,930

KINSHASA ELIMA IN

FRENCH

LUBUMBASHI MJUMBE IN

FRENCH

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